

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 OMB-01 IO-11 MC-02 /075 W

----- 073715

R 130545Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1963

RUMMJNACOMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB

5TH AIR FORCE YOKOTA AB

USAGO MACHINATO

MARCORB CAMP BUTLER

COMFLEACTSIOKINAWA

OAFB CAMP BUTLER

OAC CAMP BUTLER

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NAHA 0016

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: LEFT TAKES AIM AT IE SHIMA RANGE

SUMMARY: AS THE FOCUS TURNS ON IE SHIMA ISLAND WITH THE VISIT  
JAN 17-18 OF THE JAPANESE CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS, THERE ARE SIGNS  
THAT THE LEFT INTENDS, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, TO EXPLOIT OUR

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AERIAL GUNNERY RANGE. IN ADDITION THE CONSERVATIVE MAYOR IS  
CLAIMING THAT NIGHT AND WEEKEND MANEUVERING ARE IRRITATING VILLAGERS,  
AND WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF CONTINUED POLITICAL PROTEST. USAF  
CESSATION OF USE OF THE RANGE FROM JAN 15 THROUGH THE CROWN  
PRINCE'S VISIT, AND THE PRESENT HEAVY POLICE PRESENCE SHOULD STOP  
ANY IMMEDIATE LEFTIST VIOLENT PROTEST, BUT THE AERIAL RANGE  
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CONTINUES TO BE A POLITICALLY VULNERABLE FACILITY. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE CONGEN RECEIVED A RESOLUTION DATED DEC 18 FROM THE IER SHIMA TOWN ASSEMBLY DEMANDING PROMPT SUSPENSION OF DUMMY NUCLEAR BOMBING MANEUVERS AS WELL AS USE OF THE RANGE ON SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS, AND AT NIGHT, AS WELL AS EVENTUAL REMOVAL OF THE RANGE. ALTHOUGH THE IE SHIMA ASSEMBLY IS CONSERVATIVE-DOMINATED, THE RESOLUTION IS STRONGLY, EVEN HARSHLY, WORDED IN FAMILIAR LEFTIST TERMS, ALLEGING THAT THE DUMMY NUCLEAR BOMBING PRACTICE RELATES TO INTENSIFICATION OF THE KOREAN SITUATION AND COULD PROVOKE A NUCLEAR WAR. THE PETITION ALSO CLAIMS THIS "BARBAROUS MANEUVER" WAS CONDUCTED ON SUNDAY, CONTRAVENING U.S. FORCES' PROMISES NOT TO CONDUCT EXERCISES ON THAT DAY AND ENDANGERING THE RIGHT OF FARMERS TO MAKE A LIVING THROUGH COLLECTING HAY ON THE

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RANGE. THE "RECENT RESUMPTION OF REPEATED NIGHT MANEUVERS" IS ALSO ATTACKED FOR DEPRIVING VILLAGERS OF THEIR SLEEP AND DISTURBING SCHOOL CHILDREN'S STUDY. THE PETITION CONCLUDES THAT U.S. USE OF THE RANGE OPPRESSES THE LIVELIHOOD AND ENDANGERS THE LIFE OF THE VILLAGERS

2. LHE RYUKYU SHIMPO PUBLISHED A THREE - DAY SERIEU OF ARTICLES ON IE-SHIMA JAN 10-12 KEYED TO THE VISIT OF THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS TO CLOSE EXPO. THE ARTICLES REVIEW AT LENGTH IE SHIMA'S TRAGIC HISTORY DURING WWII AND CLAIM THAT JESPIEIA PRESS REPORT THAT THE VILLAGERS HAD AGREE TO WELCOME THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS UNANIMOUSLY, THERE IS RESENTMENT AND INDIGNATION AT THE ROYAL VISIT. THE SECOND ARTICLE CONCENTRATES ON ALLEGED EVILS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT AND USE OF THE U.S. BOMBING RANGE, ADDING THE CLAIM THAT IT INHIBITS USE OF THE COMMERCIAL AIRPORT. MAYOR CHINEN (LDP) IS QUOTED AS APPEALING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE RANGE. THE FINAL ARTICLE REPORTS ON DASHED TOURISM HOPES, A BRIEF BOOM WHICH WILL BE STIMULATED BY POLICE VISITORS TO LOCAL GUEST HOUSES DURING THE ROYAL VISIT, AND THE POTENTIAL FOR TROUBLE BETWEEN LOCAL VILLAGERS/ AND ANTI-ROYALIST RADICALS.

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TRANSLATIONS OF THESE ARTICLES AND THE IESHIMA ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION WILL BE FORWARDED SEPARATELY. END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

3. MAYOR CHINEN HAS MAINTAINED TO US PRIVATELY THAT HE IS QUITE WORRIED ABOUT THE SITUATION. WHILE THE DUMMY NUCLEAR BOMBING IS NOT REALLY A SERIOUS LGCAL ISSUE, HE SAYS THE NIGHT MANEUVERS HAVE AROUSED INDIGNATION AND FRUSTRATION AMONG THE VILLAGERS REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL COLORATION. HE CLAIMS IT HAS AFFECTED CHILDREN'S STUDY AND SLEEP, AND PARENTS AND TEACHERS HAVE APPEALED TO THE LEFTIST

ORIENTED OKINAWA TEACHERS UNION (OTU) TO ORGANIZE A STRONG CAMPAIGN, WITH OTU PLANNING TO TIE AND ANTI-U.S. BASE CAMPAIGN IN WITH THE SPRING LABOR STRUGGLE AND ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.

4. MAYOR CHINEN ALSO STATED THAT MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COMING TO THE ISLAND IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS VISIT ARE GOING AROUND INTERVIEWING VILLAGERS ON THE WAR, BOMBING RANGE, ETC. HE ASKED FOR CESSATION OF SAT AND SUN USE OF THE RANGE AS PLAYING INTO THA HANDS OF THE OPPOSITION.

6. COMMENT: CHINEN, A CONSERVATIVE, HAS BEEN FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE, AND IN PRIVATE ASSURES US AND THE AIR FORCE THAT A LARGE MAJORITY OF THE LANDOWNERS PRIVATELY SUPPORT THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE RANGE. HOWEVER, WITH THE MAJORITY OF HIS

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CONSTITUENTS NOT LANDOWNERS, AND WITH THE PRESENCE OF A SMALL BUT TIGHTLY ORGANIZED COMMUNIST GROUP, HE FINDS IT POLITICALLY EXPEDIENT TO CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL PUBLICLY.

7. THE IE SHIMA RANGE CLEARLY REMAINS ONE OF OUR MOST VULNERABLE FACILITIES IN OKINAWA. THE REACTION TO THE SHOOTING INCIDENT OF JULY 1974 FINALLY QUIETED DOWN ( A GROUP OF ISLANDERS HAD BE GIVEN BRASS COLLECTING RIGHTS BY THE USAF). PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE SCARCITY OF TOURISTS TO IE SHIMA, NO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN DURING EXPO. HOWEVER, THE PRESENCE OF A LIVE AERIAL FIRING RANGE CLOSE TO POPULATED AREA IS TAILOR-MADE FOR LEFTIST POLITICAL EXPLOITATION.

8. WITH THE VISIT OF THE CROWN PRINCE, LOCAL RADICAL GROUPS ARE TRYING TO ORGANIZE A MAJOR PROTEST ON IE SHIMA. NAHA IS COVERED  
SYLVESTER

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 OMB-01 IO-11 MC-02 /075 W

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R 130546Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1964  
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB  
5TH AIR FORCE YOKOTA AB  
USAGO MACHINATO  
MARCORB CAMP BUTLER  
COMFLEACTS OKINAWA  
OAF0 CAMP BUTLER  
OAC CAMP BUTLAR  
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NAHA 016

WITH POSTERS CALLING FOR DEMONSTRATIONS ON THE ISLAND, ETC., BUT  
FORTUNATELY THE SENIOR LEADERS OF THE LEFT - FROM THE KENROKYO LABOR  
FEDERATION THROUGH THE REFORMIST PARTIES - ARE COLD TO THIS, BE-  
LIEVING SUCH PROTEST WITH ASSOCIATED VIOLENCE WOULD ONLY ALIENATE  
THE PUBLIC. THE POLICE, MOREOVER, ARE SATURATING IE SHIMA FOR THE

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CROWN PRINCE'S SHORT VISIT AND ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PREVENTING A  
RECURRENCE OF THE DRAMATIC IF ABORTIVE FIREBOMBING ATTACK ON THE  
PRINCE DURING HIS JUNE VISIT. THE AIR FORCE IS STOPPING RANGE USE  
FROM THE 15TH PARTLY TO ALLOW THE POLICE TO SCREEN THE AREA WELL.  
HOPEFULLY THIS WILL BLOCK ANY REAL RADICAL ATTEMPT TO DRAMATIZE  
THE PRESENCE OF OUR RANGE DURING THIS PERIOD OF INTENSE MEDIA  
INTEREST AROUND THE XPO'S CLOSE, BUT THE USAF RANGE - WITH ITS  
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NOISE AND FIRING - WILL OBVIOUSLY REMAIN AN ATTRACTIVE  
POLITICAL TARGET FOR THE LEFTISTS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, IE SHIMA, MILITARY BASES, MILITARY PLANS, MILITARY EXERCISES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** MARR, JA  
**To:** TOKYO  
**Type:** TE  
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